

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 JOHANN 02146 170651Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 CU-04 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /076 W

-----062344 170653Z /10

R 161400Z AUG 77

FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6561

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JOHANNESBURG 2146

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, SF

SUBJECT: COMMITTEE OF TEN STATUS QUESTIONED AS STUDENTS TRICKLE  
BACK TO CLASSES

1. SUMMARY: THE SOWETO STUDENTS REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL (SSRC),  
ACTING AT THE BEHEST OF THE COMMITTEE OF TEN, HAS CALLED ON  
STUDENTS TO RETURN TO CLASSES THIS WEEK. WHETHER STUDENTS  
HEED THE SSRC (AND COMMITTEE) REQUEST IS STILL OPEN TO  
QUESTION AS SOWETO CLASSES WERE REPORTED LARGELY EMPTY ON FIRST  
DAY OF SCHEDULED RETURN. END SUMMARY.

2. INCREASING SKEPTICISM AS TO THE INFLUENCE OF THE MUCH-  
VAUNTED COMMITTEE OF TEN GREETED YESTERDAY'S (AUGUST 15) POOR  
TURNOUT OF STUDENTS, AS SOWETO YOUTH SEEMED SLOW TO RESPOND  
TO AN SSRC CALL FOR STUDENTS TO RETURN.

3. THE DEGREE TO WHICH STUDENTS AGREE TO RETURN IS SEEN BY  
SAG, RIGHTLY OR WRONGLY, AS MEASURING THE INFLUENCE OF  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 JOHANN 02146 170651Z

COMMITTEE OF TEN, A BODY INCREASINGLY UNDER ATTACK BY WHITE  
AUTHORITIES AS BEING "UNREPRESENTATIVE." SAG CRITICISM OF  
COMMITTEE OF TEN, TINGED WITH "I TOLD YOU SO" SMUGNESS,  
GREETED THE POOR TURNOUT YESTERDAY, THE FIRST DAY OF THE CALLED-  
FOR RETURN.

4. COMMITTEE OF TEN (AND SSRC) ARE CLEARLY ON THE SPOT IN

THIS, THEIR FIRST "TEST," AND SEEM TO BE HAMPERED BY TWO FACTORS. FIRST, THE POLICE PRESENCE IN AND AROUND SCHOOLS IS SEEN BY MANY TO BE INHIBITING RETURN OF STUDENTS (ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS, YESTERDAY, POLICE WITH DOGS WERE REPORTED IN CLASSROOMS); AND SECOND, THE SSRC, THE COMMITTEE OF TEN'S AGENT IN GETTING STUDENTS BACK TO CLASSES, HAS SUFFERED SERIOUS LEADERSHIP LOSSES THE LAST TEN DAYS, INCLUDING A REPORTED ROUNDUP OF ELEVEN MEMBERS AND AN UNCONFIRMED REPORT THAT THE NEW SSRC CHAIRMAN, TROFOMO SONO, HAS BEEN WOUNDED BY UNIDENTIFIED PERSONS.

5. NONETHELESS, THE COMMITTEE APPEARS TO HAVE AGREED TO THIS "TEST" FOR SEVERAL REASONS, NOT THE LEAST OF WHICH WAS THE NEED TO REASSERT ITS LEADERSHIP IN THE FACE OF SAG ATTEMPTS TO DENIGRATE ITS STATUS. SECONDLY, THE COMMITTEE HAS BEEN IN CONSULTATION WITH JOHANNESBURG BANTU EDUCATION OFFICIALS (JAAP STRYDOM) AND POLICE (JAN VISSER) AND AGREED TO COMPROMISE IN EFFORT TO KEEP SCHOOLS OPEN.

6. PATRICK LAURENCE OF RAND DAILY MAIL NOTED TO CONOFF THAT HE HAD TALKED WITH BOTH STRYDOM AND VISSER AND THEY ARE UNDER HEAVY PRESSURE FROM "ABOVE" (IN THIS CASE CLEARLY FROM PRETORIA) TO GET TOUGH AND PUT AN END TO TROUBLESOME ELEMENTS ONCE AND FOR ALL. VISSER AND STRYDOM ARE BOTH CONSIDERABLY MORE LIBERAL IN THEIR APPROACHES AND HAVE, ACCORDING TO LAURENCE, ADVISED COMMITTEE OF TEN OFFICIALS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 JOHANN 02146 170651Z

THAT THEY MUST GET STUDENTS BACK TO CLASSES OR "HARDLINERS" WILL OVERRULE THEM AND PROBABLY CLOSE SCHOOLS AND ROUND UP ALL SUSPECTED TROUBLEMAKERS. VISSER AND STRYDOM ARE, ALSO ACCORDING TO LAURENCE, SOMEWHAT ON THE SPOT THEMSELVES AND RISK BEING FURTHER OUT OF FAVOR (POSSIBLY REPLACED) IF PROGRESS IS NOT MADE. FOR THEIR PART, STRYDOM HAS AGREED THAT TOWNSHIP SCHOOL AUTHORITIES MAY REPLACE BANTU EDUCATION SYLLABUSES WITH THOSE USED BY THE TRANSVAAL BOARD OF EDUCATION (A MOVE IN THE DIRECTION OF STANDARDIZED EDUCATION). VISSER, WITH KRIEL AND KRUGER ON HIS BACK, IS TAKING A HARD LINE IN PUBLIC, BUT HAS ALSO REPORTEDLY AGREED TO RESTRAIN POLICE WHERE HE CAN. LAURENCE MENTIONED, HOWEVER, THAT VISSER IS UNDER HEAVY PRESSURE BY PRETORIA POLICE OFFICIALS TO CRACK DOWN ON DISSIDENT ELEMENTS.

JOHNSON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** COMMITTEES, STUDENTS, BOYCOTTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 16-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977JOHANN02146  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770296-0555  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** JOHANNESBURG  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770858/aaaabxcl.tel  
**Line Count:** 109  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** dadff759-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 09-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1591623  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** COMMITTEE OF TEN STATUS QUESTIONED AS STUDENTS TRICKLE BACK TO CLASSES  
**TAGS:** PINS, SEDU, SF  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/dadff759-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009